

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a personal firewall in a client computer, said method comprising
providing said personal firewall with at least one set of security rules to be used when said client computer is connected to a home network of said client computer, and at least one set of security rules to be used when said client computer is connected to foreign networks,
determining by said personal firewall a current location of said client computer based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said client computer,
selecting by said personal firewall a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, said predetermined network element being able to respond only if said client computer is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,
sending by the personal firewall to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and
automatically selecting by the personal firewall one of said sets of security rules by said personal firewall according to said current location of said client computer, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, or
determining the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said step of providing comprises providing said client computer with said set of security rules in form of at least two rule bases,

said step of selecting a set of security rules comprises enabling one of said rule bases at a time according to the current location of said client computer.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said step of providing comprises providing said client computer with said set of security rules in form of one rule base, and
said step of selecting a set of security rules comprises enabling and disabling rules in said one rule base in different combinations according to the current location of said client computer.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining comprises
storing in said client computer an IP address space of said home network,
comparing the current IP address of said client computer with said IP address space,
and
if the current IP address of said client computer matches said IP address space,
determining said personal firewall to be located in said home network.

5. (Original) A method according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein said step of determining comprises
storing in said client computer a list of IP addresses of said home network,
comparing the current IP address of said client computer with said list of IP addresses,
and
if the current IP address of said client computer matches one of said addresses on said list, determining said client computer to be located in said home network.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said specific identity data is a Media Access Control (MAC) address of said predetermined network element.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a personal firewall in a client computer, comprising

- storing in said personal firewall at least one set of security rules to be used when said client computer is connected to a home network of said client computer, and at least one set of security rules to be used when said client computer is connected to foreign networks,
- storing updated sets of security rules, if any, in a centralized unit in said home network of said client computer,
- determining by said personal firewall a current location of said client computer based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said client computer,
- selecting by said personal firewall a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, said predetermined network element being able to respond only if said client computer is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,
- sending by the personal firewall to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and
- automatically selecting by the personal firewall one of said sets of security rules by said personal firewall according to said current location of said client computer, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, or
- determining the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, and further comprising
- configuring said personal firewall to periodically query the availability of said updated sets of security rules from said centralized rule base server when being located in said home network, or when having a remote access to said home network while being located in a foreign network, and

loading said updated sets of security rules from said centralized rule base server to said personal firewall in response to said query, if such updated sets of security rules are available.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, comprising
monitoring the current location of said client computer based on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said client computer, and
automatically activating said periodical query, when the current location of said client computer is in said home network.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, comprising
monitoring the current location of said client computer based on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said client computer,
sending log files to a centralized log server from said personal firewall when the current location of said client computer is in said home network, said log files containing information on communication transactions in said client computer,
collecting log files locally at said personal firewall, when the current location of said client computer is not in said home network, and
transferring said locally collected log files from said personal firewall to said centralized log server, when said client computer is connected to said home network.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer terminal, comprising
a personal firewall provided with at least one set of security rules to be used when said computer terminal is connected to a home network of said computer terminal, and at least one set of security rules to be used when said computer terminal is connected to foreign networks,
said personal firewall having a mechanism determining the current location of said computer terminal based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said computer terminal,
said personal firewall having a mechanism selecting a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, said predetermined network element

being able to respond only if said client computer is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,

said personal firewall having a mechanism sending to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, said personal firewall having a mechanism automatically selecting one of said sets of security rules by said personal firewall according to said current location of said computer terminal, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, or

said personal firewall having a mechanism automatically determining the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, containing a computer software which, when executed in a computer device, causes the computer device to provide a personal firewall routine comprising

storing by said personal firewall at least one set of security rules to be used when said computer device is connected to a home network of said computer device, and at least one set of security rules to be used when said computer device is connected to foreign networks,

determining by said personal firewall the current location of said computer device based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said computer device,

selecting by said personal firewall a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, said predetermined network element being able to respond only if said client computer is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,

sending by the personal firewall to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and

automatically selecting one of said sets of security rules by said personal firewall according to said current location of said computer device, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, or

determining the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer device, comprising a personal firewall routine configured to store security rules for a home network of said computer device, and for foreign networks,

determine current location of said client computer based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said computer device,

select a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said computer device, said predetermined network element being able to respond only if said computer device is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,

send to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and

automatically select security rules for said personal firewall according to said current location of said client computer, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said computer device, or

determine the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based on the IP address currently used by said computer device, and further to

periodically query the availability of updated security rules from a centralized rule base server in said home network of said computer device when said computer device is located in said home network, and

download said updated security rules from said centralized rule base server, if such updated security rules are available in said centralized rule base server.

17. (Original) A computer device according to claim 16, said personal firewall routine being further configured to

activate said periodical query also when said computer device has a remote access to said home network while being located in a foreign network.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer device, comprising a personal firewall routine configured to

determine current location of said client computer based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said computer device,

select a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said computer device, said predetermined network element being able to respond only if said computer device is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,

send to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and

automatically select security rules for said personal firewall according to said current location of said client computer, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said computer device, or

determine the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said computer device, and further to

send log files to a centralized log server, when a current location of said computer device is in a home network of said computer device, said log files containing information on communication transactions in said computer device,

collect log files locally in said computer device, when the current location of said client device is not in said home network,

transfer said locally collected log files to said centralized log server, when said computer device is reconnected to said home network.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium, containing computer software which, when executed in a computer device, causes the computer device to provide a personal firewall routine comprising

storing security rules for a home network of said computer device, and for foreign networks,

periodically querying the availability of updated security rules from a centralized rule base server in said home network of said computer device when said computer device is located in said home network, and

downloading said updated security rules from said centralized rule base server, if such updated security rules are available in said centralized rule base server.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, containing computer software which, when executed in a computer device, causes the computer device to provide a personal firewall routine comprising

determining by said personal firewall a current location of said client computer based solely on an Internet Protocol (IP) address currently used by said client computer,

selecting by said personal firewall a predetermined network element that should be available for verification from the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, said predetermined network element being able to

respond only if said client computer is located in the network in which it is assumed to be on the basis of the current IP address,

sending by the personal firewall to the selected predetermined network element a request to send a response with some data proving an identity of the selected predetermined network element, and

automatically selecting by the personal firewall one of said sets of security rules by said personal firewall according to said current location of said client computer, if the selected predetermined network element sends a response with the required identity data to the personal firewall and thereby verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, or

determining the current location unverified and selecting a default set of security rules by the personal firewall, if the personal firewall fails to receive from the selected predetermined network element a response with the required identity data which verifies the current location determined based solely on the IP address currently used by said client computer, and

sending log files to a centralized log server, when a current location of said computer device is in a home network of said computer device, said log files containing information on communication transactions in said computer device,

collecting log files locally in said computer device, when the current location of said client device is not in said home network.